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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/632,418	08/01/2003	Hsin-Kai Huang	3304.2.76	4361

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EXAMINER

LAXTON, GARY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2838

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/632,418	HUANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gary L. Laxton	2838	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 August 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 4/11/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. According to applicant's reasoning, if a circuit comprises a PWM signal with a variable duty cycle, then the PWM signal with a variable duty cycle will permit simultaneously using at least two high power consumption devices. Since Bansard discloses each and every claimed limitation, including a PWM signal with a variable duty cycle, then by applicant's reasoning, the PWM signal with variable duty cycle of Bansard inherently allows simultaneous use of at least two high power consuming devices. Furthermore, it is quite possible that the load circuit of Bansard includes multiple high power consuming devices conveniently labeled "igniter firing device".¹ Therefore, the amendment fails to clearly distinguish between prior art power supplies and what the applicant regards as novel in the instant invention. Merely powering plural devices from a single power supply is not novel and in fact is well known in the art.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the simultaneous use of at least two high power consumption devices of claim 1 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

¹ For example, See US 5,382,893 – Dehnel discloses a power supply to supply power to a computer. Those of ordinary skill in the art readily recognize a computer has plural power consuming components.

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4. Claims 1, 3-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bansard (US 5,325,282).

Claims 1, 3-5; Bansard discloses a voltage regulator comprising: a transformer having a primary winding and a secondary winding (T); a switch circuit (Q) being controlled via a control end thereof so as to result in a variable current on the primary winding; a rectification circuit (CR) electrically connected to the secondary winding, and proceeding a charging operation in response to an induced current; and a micro-controller (9) electrically connected to the switch circuit (Q) and generating a pulse width modulation (PWM) signal to the control end in response to the charging operation. the PWM signal has a variable duty cycle. The micro-controller is controlled by a firmware. The rectification circuit includes a rectifying diode and a capacitor electrically connected to each other in series and further electrically connected to the secondary winding. Furthermore, Bansard discloses a comparing circuit electrically connected to the capacitor, and providing an operating condition of the charging operation for the reference of the micro-controller.

Claims 6-10. Bansard discloses a method for operating a voltage regulator comprising steps of: providing a first pulse signal (9) with a first duty cycle to a transformer (T) till a capacitor (C) has a voltage reaching a maximum voltage (Ref 1) when the capacitor has a voltage smaller than a threshold voltage, and the transformer generating the charging current in response to the first pulse signal; and providing a second pulse signal with a second duty cycle to the transformer till the capacitor (C) has a voltage reaching the maximum voltage by the charging current when the capacitor (C) has a voltage between the threshold voltage and the maximum voltage, and the transformer generating the charging current in response to the second pulse

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signal, wherein the first duty cycle is greater than the second duty cycle. The first and the second pulse signals are generated by a micro-controller (9). The micro-controller (9) is controlled by a firmware to generate the first and the second pulse signals with the first and the second duty cycles. The first and the second pulse signals are inputted to a primary winding of the transformer (T). The rectification circuit (CR) includes a rectifying diode and a capacitor electrically connected to each other in series and further electrically connected to the secondary winding.

Claim 11. Bansard discloses a method for operating a voltage regulator for providing a charging current to a capacitor (C) of a rectification circuit (CR), comprising steps of: comparing a voltage of the capacitor with a threshold voltage; adjusting a duty cycle of a pulse signal according to a comparing result of the voltage of the capacitor with the threshold voltage; and providing the pulse signal to a transformer till the capacitor have a voltage reaching a maximum voltage, and the transformer generating the charging current in response to the pulse signal. The pulse signal provided to the transformer has a first duty cycle when the capacitor has a voltage smaller than the threshold voltage. The pulse signal provided to the transformer has a second duty cycle smaller than the first duty cycle when the capacitor has a voltage between the threshold voltage and the maximum voltage.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 6,906,502 Kernahan discloses a power supply which

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provides power to a number of components at the same time; US 5,382,893 Dehnel discloses power supply providing power to a computer.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary L. Laxton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on (571) 272-2084. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gary L. Laxton
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2838
6/16/05